

HOUSE BILL 2993

By Parkinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 10, relative to unsafe driving practices by certain commercial drivers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 10, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 7 of this act as new part 9.

SECTION 2. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "hotline" means a method or system created or established to accept any telephonic form of communication that is communicated to the department of safety, for the purposes of providing governmental employees and citizens of this state a means to report or provide information relating to tractor trailers being operated in an unsafe manner.

SECTION 3. The department of safety shall establish, maintain, and publicize a toll-free hotline for the purpose of receiving allegations of unsafe driving by tractor trailer operators in this state.

SECTION 4. Through press releases, public service announcements, or other appropriate public information activities, the department of safety shall attempt to educate both private citizens and public employees of the availability of a mechanism to report, and the responsibilities of the department of safety to review, unsafe driving by tractor trailer operators in this state.

SECTION 5. The department of safety shall review all telephone calls received on the toll-free hotline number pursuant to this part and shall maintain a record of each meritorious call involving unsafe driving practices of a tractor trailer operator. The information received through the calls shall be investigated by the department of safety or may be referred by the department of safety to the owner of such tractor trailer.

SECTION 6. All tractor trailers and tractor-semitrailer combinations shall have affixed, stenciled, or painted on the rear of the vehicle a sign or placard bearing the hotline number at least six inches (6") in height, clearly visible to a motorist following the vehicle.

SECTION 7. The department of safety shall develop and implement a registry of operators of tractor trailers who have more than three (3) moving violations, truck inspection violations, or criminal offenses involving motor vehicles in three (3) years.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.